



United States
Department of
Agriculture

VETERINARY SERVICES NOTICE 99-02

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Subject: Embryo Collection Center Approval Fee

Date: January 11, 1999

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

To: Directors, VS Regions
Area Veterinarians in Charge, VS

Veterinary Services
4700 River Road
Unit 44
Riverdale, MD 20737

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify personnel of a change in the user fee rate for inspection and approval of embryo collection centers, in accordance with regulations which were published in the Federal Register on December 30, 1998, to become effective January 29, 1999.

Existing user fees require embryo collection centers to pay user fees based on hourly rates for inspections and approval. The hourly rate has been replaced for this specific service with a flat rate annual user fee that will cover the cost of approval and all required inspections of the facility for that year. The annual fee does not include the costs for inspecting any animals in the facility. This action was taken to make the collection of user fees simpler and to allow centers to better predict the costs of inspections and approvals. This change should have a minimal impact on customers of embryo collection centers.

The flat rate annual user fee will be \$278.50 per center, which includes travel time and the average number of inspections performed during a year, generally two per center. In addition, the service code and activity description has been changed to "**Service Code -118, Embryo Collection Center Approval**". The Minneapolis APHIS Business Services office will update the National User Fee database January 8, 1999, to reflect the new service code and rate change.

If you have any questions, please call Inez Hockaday on (301) 734-7517.

/s/

Louise R. Lothery
Administrative Officer
Management Support Staff
Veterinary Services



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